



**ACTION
COMICS**



**EXTRA--
ACTION-PLUS
WITH
The ATOM**



**25¢
NO. 454
DEC.
30410**

SUPERMAN'S

ACTION COMICS



MORE BURGERS!
CHOMP!
KEEP THEM COMING...
GULP!
...OR I'LL **STARVE**
TO DEATH!

WHAT?!
BUT YOU'VE ALREADY
EATEN ENOUGH FOR
AN **ARMY!**

9-2137

BAT MAN

AND

THE CAPTIVE COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER GORDON HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY THE 3 SVENGALI BROTHERS, UNDERWORLD FIGURES. WITHOUT ITS COMMISSIONER, GOTHAM CITY IS IN TOTAL CHAOS.

ROBIN, UNTIL COMMISSIONER GORDON IS FREED, THIS CITY IS IN TROUBLE.

NOT JUST TROUBLE, BATMAN, REAL, DEEP, BIG TROUBLE!

YOU TWO GUYS GOTTA MAKE A DEAL WITH THE BATMAN. EITHER WE RUN THIS TOWN, OR NOBODY'LL EVER SEE THE COMMISSIONER AGAIN.

WE'LL "PERSUADE" THE BATMAN...

...TO "TALK THINGS OVER."

DON'T TRY NUTHIN, BATMAN! THIS CAR IS COMPUTERIZED TO TAKE YOU TO OUR HIDEOUT, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO!

IN THAT CASE, LET'S ENJOY SOME SNACKS!

HEY! THIS IS TERRIFIC! HOSTESS FRUIT PIES! I'LL TAKE CHERRY!

APPLE FOR ME!

BATMAN, YOU'RE O.K. THIS HAS REAL FRUIT FILLING.

AND A TENDER CRUST YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE!

THEM DUMB BROTHERS OF MINE LET ME DOWN, LEMME OUTA HERE...

LET'S SAY I HAD A LITTLE BIT OF HELP FROM HOSTESS!

BATMAN, YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN!

GLAD YOU ENJOYED HOSTESS FRUIT PIES!

AND AS EVERYONE KNOWS...

... A LITTLE NAP AFTER A MEAL HELPS!

YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE OF HOSTESS® FRUIT PIES

**ANOTHER
EPISODE
IN THE
AMAZING
ADVENTURES
OF . . .**

SUPERMAN



GO ON, SUPERMAN,
TAKE OFF... FLY
AFTER HIM!

YOU'VE GOT
TO CATCH HIM!

THE TOYMAN'S
JUST ROBBED
ANOTHER BANK!

I-I CAN'T!
I DON'T HAVE
PANT-
THE ENERGY!

WHAT GOOD ARE *SUPER-POWERS*...
WITHOUT THE STAMINA AND
ENDURANCE IT TAKES TO USE
THEM? THAT'S THE CRUCIAL
QUESTION PLAGUING A POOPED
MAN OF STEEL! AND TO MAKE
THINGS WORSE, THERE IS NO
EASY ANSWER TO THE DILEMMA OF...

"SUPERMAN'S ENERGY-CRISIS!"

STORY:
CARY GATES

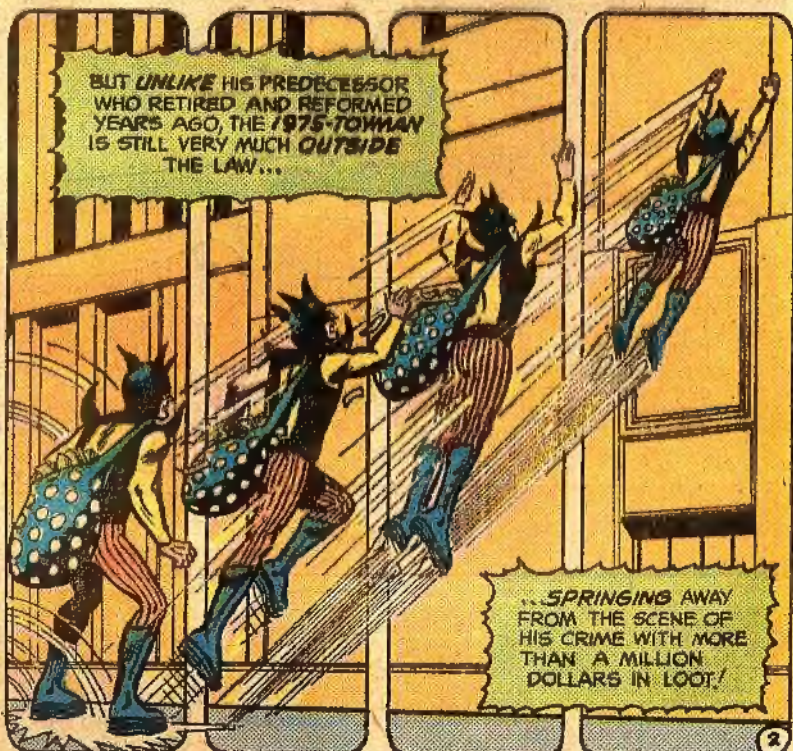
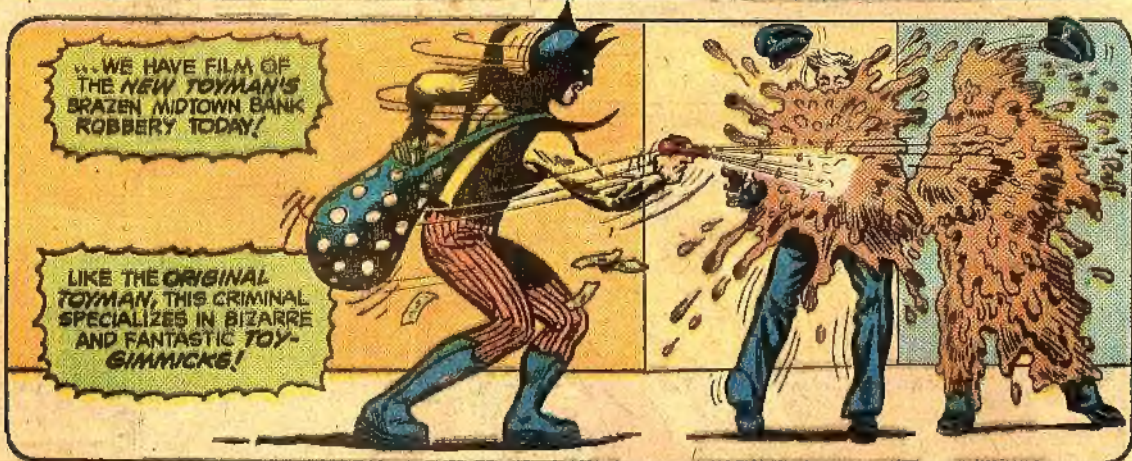
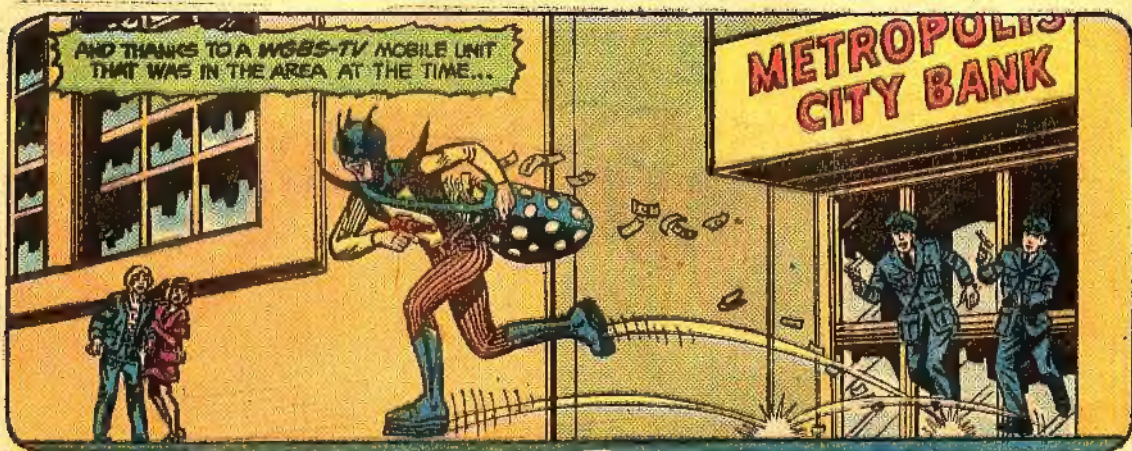
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JULIUS SCHWARTZ

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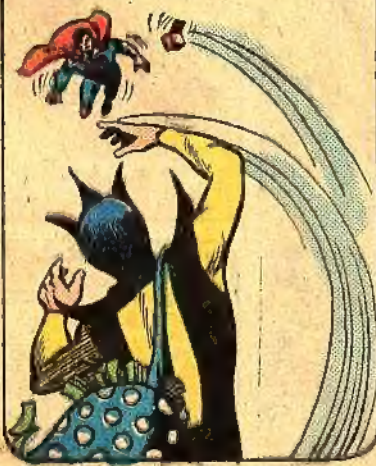


BUT THE TOYMAN DIDN'T
PLAN ON HIS ESCAPE-
ROUTE TAKING HIM UP,
UP AND AWAY INTO--

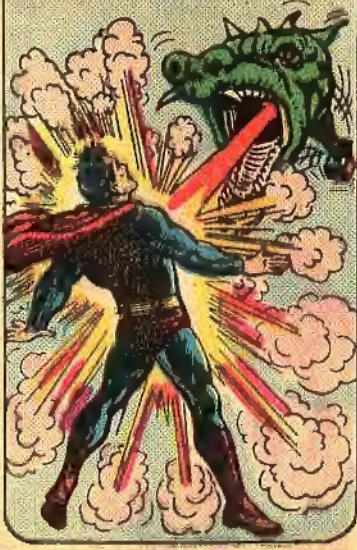


--SUPERMAN, WHO ZOOMED
IN FOR A MID-AIR CAPTURE!

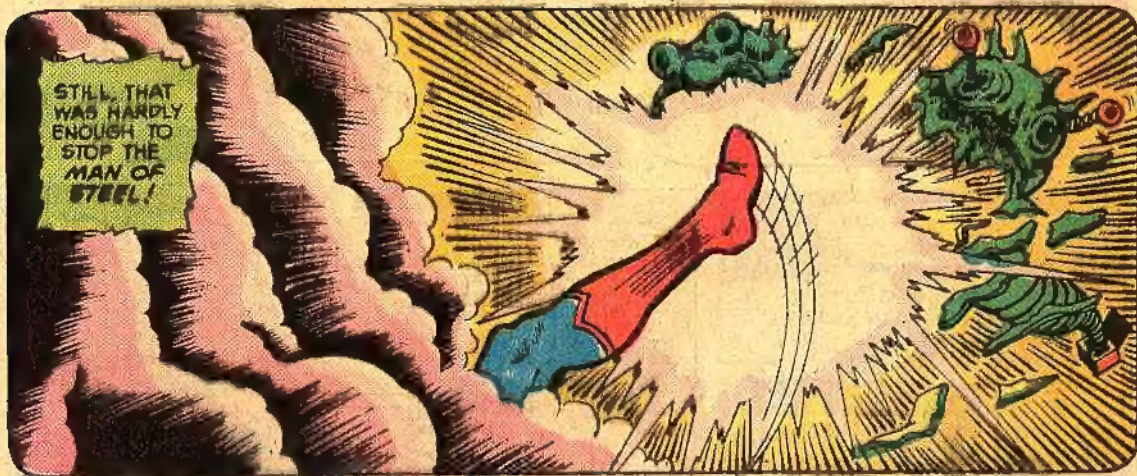
THE MASTER OF TOYS!
ESCAPE SEEMED HOPELESS
AS HE HURLED A SMALL
JACK-IN-THE-BOX--



-- BUT IT WAS FAR FROM A
FUTILE ATTEMPT WHEN THERE
EMERGED A GIANT MECHANIZED
DRAGON WITH BREATH THAT
COULD MELT A SKYSCRAPER!



STILL, THAT
WAS HARDLY
ENOUGH TO
STOP THE
MAN OF
STEEL!



HOWEVER,
BEFORE
SUPERMAN
COULD
CLOSE IN
ON HIS
FOE, THE
TOYMAN
REVEALED
ANOTHER
TRICK UP
HIS
YELLOW
SLEEVE--



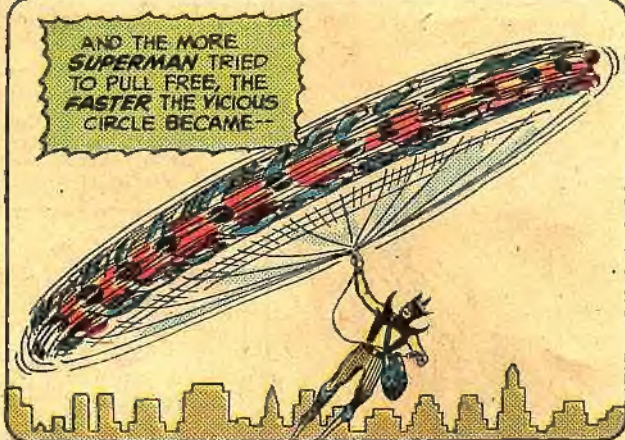
--AS A TINY HOOK
FIRMLY LATCHED
ITSELF ONTO
SUPERMAN'S
BELT--



--WHEREUPON
THE ACTION ACE
SUDDENLY FOUND
HIMSELF BEING
TWIRLED AROUND
LIKE A HUMAN
LARIAT!

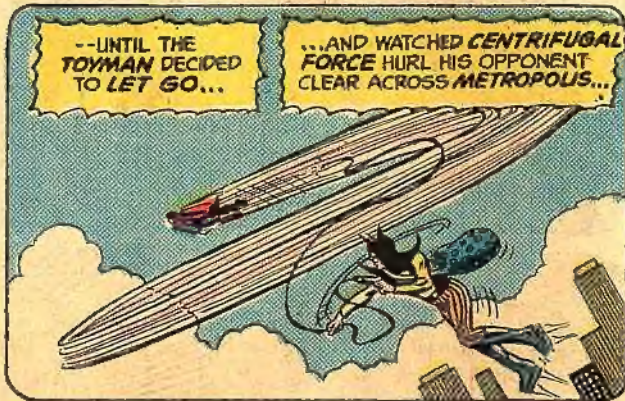


AND THE MORE
SUPERMAN TRIED
TO PULL FREE, THE
FASTER THE VICIOUS
CIRCLE BECAME--



--UNTIL THE
TOYMAN DECIDED
TO LET GO...

...AND WATCHED CENTRIFUGAL
FORCE HURL HIS OPPONENT
CLEAR ACROSS METROPOLIS...



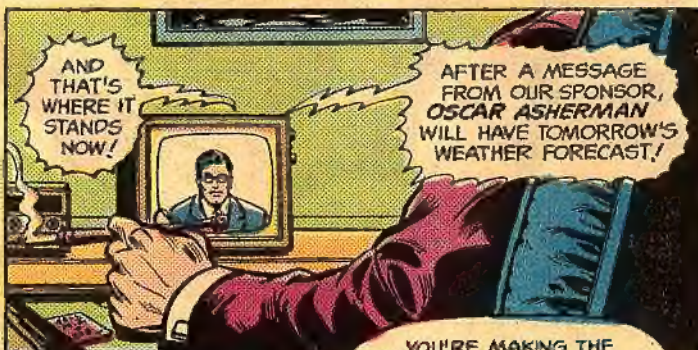
...LIKE A RUNAWAY
CANNONBALL!

WITH **SUPERMAN** OUT OF
ACTION, THE **TOYMAN** RESUMED
HIS GETAWAY AND SCOOTED OUT
OF RANGE OF OUR CAMERA!



AND
THAT'S
WHERE IT
STANDS
NOW!

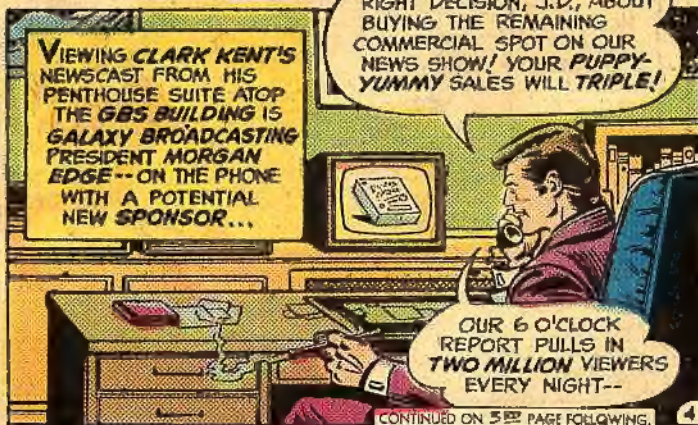
AFTER A MESSAGE
FROM OUR SPONSOR,
OSCAR ASHERMAN
WILL HAVE TOMORROW'S
WEATHER FORECAST!



VIEWING CLARK KENT'S
NEWSCAST FROM HIS
PENTHOUSE SUITE ATOP
THE **GBS BUILDING** IS
GALAXY BROADCASTING
PRESIDENT **MORGAN**
EDGE--ON THE PHONE
WITH A POTENTIAL
NEW SPONSOR...

...YOU'RE MAKING THE
RIGHT DECISION, J.D., ABOUT
BUYING THE REMAINING
COMMERCIAL SPOT ON OUR
NEWS SHOW! YOUR **PUPPY-**
YUMMY SALES WILL TRIPLE!

OUR 6 O'CLOCK
REPORT PULLS IN
TWO MILLION VIEWERS
EVERY NIGHT--



CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

ALL THE ACTION STARTS WITH A PULL OF THE T-STICK (NO BATTERIES)

WATCH DAREDEVIL DAN CATCH THE THRILL BAR AND SPIN!

SEE THE MUSTANGII DO A WILD POWER SPIN-OUT!

SET
STUNT WHEEL...PULL
T-STICK

SCREEEEEE



Tournament of Thrills

1

FEATURING DAREDEVIL DAN

**BIG SET GIVES YOU ALL THESE
DEATH DEFYING WILD-ACTION STUNTS!**

ALL THE ACTION OF THE REAL AUTO DAREDEVILS!

DAREDEVIL DAN CATCHES THE THRILL BAR FROM ATOP A SPEEDING CAR!



THE MUSTANGII CRASHES INTO THE WALL AS DAREDEVIL DAN LEAPS FOR LIFE!



"DRAGGING" WITH ALL THE FUN AND EXCITEMENT OF THE REAL PROS!



SET INCLUDES:
MUSTANGII MODEL
DAREDEVIL DAN
HOOK
THRILL BAR
JUMP RAMP
BARRELS
T-STICK

SEE IT NOW--AT YOUR FAVORITE STORE!

Kenner

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WHAT TO SINK YOUR TEETH INTO WHEN YOU'RE HUNGRY AND YOU'RE NOT A WEREWOLF

Every now and then, do you get this uncontrollable urge to bite into something that's really got some meat in it?

Are you tired of sugar-sweet snacks that dissolve in your mouth, and crunchy snacks that you can hardly tell you ate, and all the other boring stuff you have to put up with, every day?

Well, take heart. And, while you're at it, take Slim Jim along in your pocket.

Slim Jim is a chewy, all-meat snack that comes in five very un-boring flavors. Mild, spicy, salami, bacon, and pizza. And you can find it at the grocery store. Or at a lot of the places where you've been getting those sissy snacks.

You might want to carry a few extra ones, too. Then, if you meet a werewolf, you can give him something to sink his teeth into instead of you.



A LITTLE LESS THAN A MEAL. A LITTLE MORE THAN A SNACK.

AMERICAN CIRCLE CORP., DEPT. 25-K 2635 PETTIT AVE., BELLMORE, N.Y. 11710



MAGIC BRAIN CALCULATOR. Adds, subtracts and multiplies in 1/100th of a second. No keyboard needed to solve math problems. Great homework crutch. Fast, easy to learn and accurate. 5 1/2" x 3" x 1/2". 25¢ each.

Q No. 187 \$1.49



SNOWSTORM TABLETS. Create a miniature snowstorm indoors. Will actually cover a whole room. Watch the fun start when you pop one of these almost invisible tablets on the blurring end of a cigarette. Watch them run for the door!

Q No. 108 25¢ each \$1.99



MAGIC COLOR CLOUDS. When you light one of these small granules, huge, thick clouds of color continue to pour out. Will amaze and thrill you and your friends. Can be used for magic tricks and the making of.

Q No. 117 4 for \$1.99



SECRET SAFE. Looks like an inconspicuous book. In simulated leather, but opens reveals a combination lock and a compartment for your valuables. Money, etc. 4 1/2" x 3 1/2" x 1 1/2".

Q No. 118 \$1.99



SPYSCOPE. No larger than a fountain pen, spot objects blocks away. Excellent for all sports, outdoor spying, local, ball, hiker. Power lenses optically ground to reproduce every detail. 8-power telescope, also converts into a 30-power microscope.

Q No. 194 \$1.49



100% FREE THINGS. Get FREE 100% free things: books, product samples, toys, stamps, etc. from companies, federal agencies, associations, etc. that are anxious to send you FREE 100% new things with names and addresses to write to for your 100% FREE things.

Q No. 745 60 each



POINSETTIA PLANTS. Most beloved plant in the world. Red, pink, white, yellow, etc. Poinsettia itself by traveling and cutting these flowers, Poinsettia will grow and be a source of new material. Order to grow with special soil and full instructions included.

Q No. 708 \$1.99



MAGIC SOAP POWDER. Reminiscent of a little of this almost invisible magic powder on your soap. When anyone uses the soap their hands and face will turn bloody red. Move fast! Before they cry! Poinsettia!

Q No. 193 25¢ each 4 for \$1.99



ACH-CHOC POWDER. Place a little of this powder on your hand. Blow into the air, and back and forth the air. Everyone in the room will begin to sneeze without knowing why. Much fun than a normal ball of powder.

Q No. 104 25¢ each 5 for \$1.99



10 INSTRUMENTS IN ONE. Every function, except, except, except, except, except, except, except, except, except, except. You get all the following in this little handy set: 1. Reading thermometer. 2. Compass and altimeter. 3. Adjustable wrench. 4. Pencil sharpener. 5. Directional compass. 6. Solar time clock. 7. Flat mirror. 8. Magnifying mirror. 9. Pen light. 10. Case separator.

Q No. 770 \$1.99



"MONEY MAKER" is a small device that inserts a coin and produces one dollar bill. It is a real dollar bill and it changes to a 50 50 bill or \$10.00. No bill required. Lots of fun and mystery.

Q No. 376 ONLY \$1.99



POTATO GUN. There's a new, cool weapon out that shoots potatoes as far as 50 ft. with them and about 100 ft. of potato powder. Absolutely hilarious... and you have fun out of season.

Q No. 732 \$1.99

Please Rush Me

American Circle Corp., Dept. 25-K,
2635 Pettit Ave., Bellmore, N.Y. 11710

YOUR SATISFACTION
IS GUARANTEED

Item No.	How Many	Price Ea.	Total
Package and Shipping		50¢	
Total Enclosed			

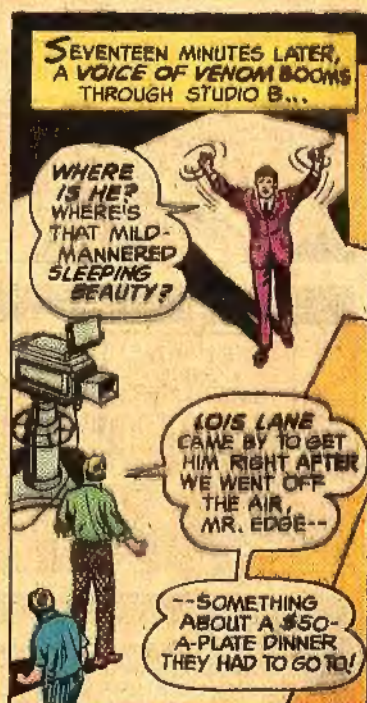
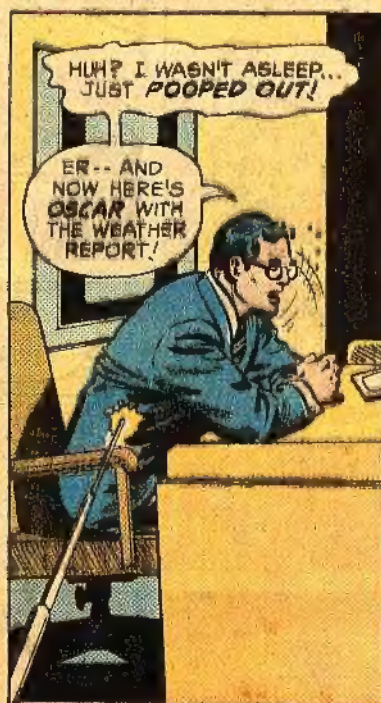
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order \$1.00
No C.O.D.'s
Please send me catalog only 25¢

(See other pages if necessary)

Name Please print clearly

Address

City State





...AND ALL OF YOU KNOW ABOUT THE MYSTERIOUS PROBLEMS SUDDENLY PLAGUING SOLAR ENERGY PLANTS ALL OVER THE WORLD...



I CAN'T REMEMBER WHEN I'VE EVER BEEN SO EMBARRASSED!

CLARK, IT'S A WONDER YOU DIDN'T EAT THE PLATES, TOO!



FIRST I PRACTICALLY HAVE TO DRAG YOU TO THE TAXI TO GET YOU HERE... THEN YOU STUFF YOURSELF LIKE A PRIZE PIG!

CLARK, WHAT IS THE MATTER...?

CLARK--?



OH, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE! HE'S CONKED OUT AGAIN!



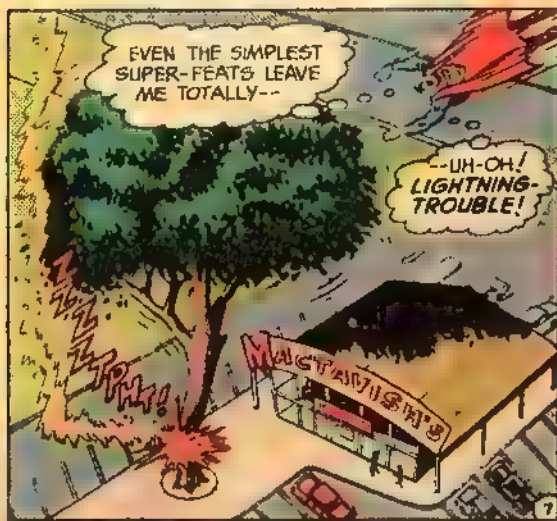
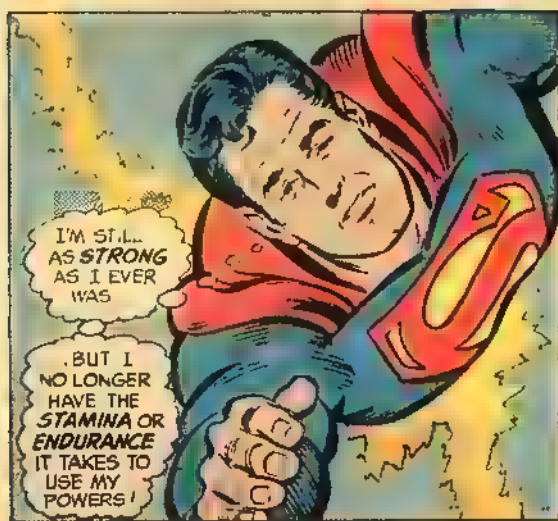
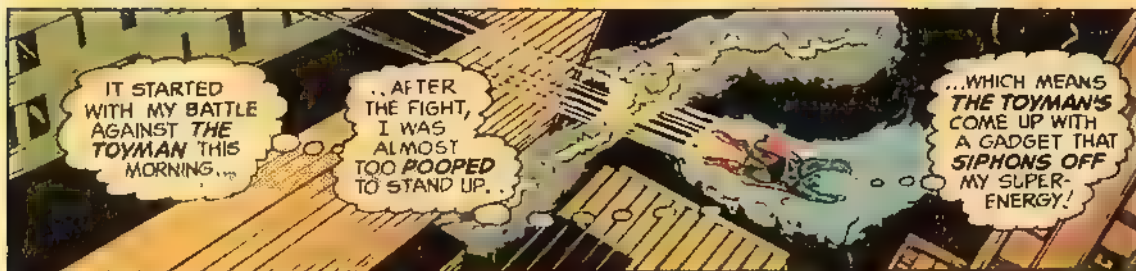
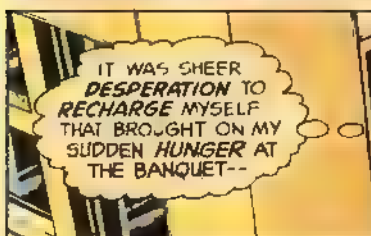
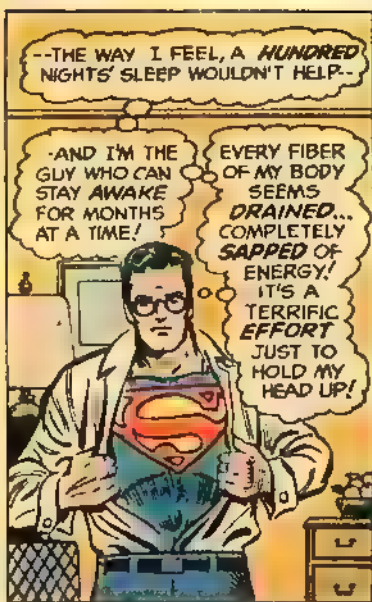
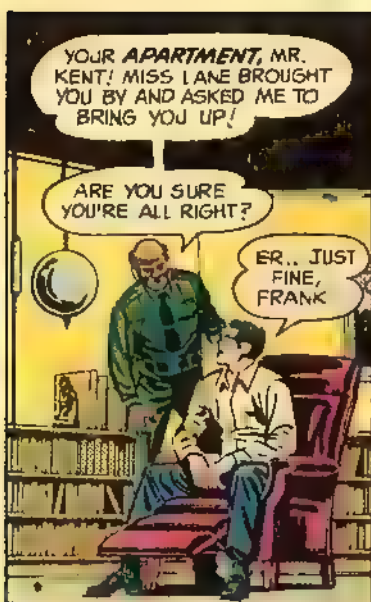
SOME TIME LATER...

UHHH... SORRY... JUST--TIRED OUT!

WHERE AM I--?

WAKE UP, MR. KENT, WAKE UP!





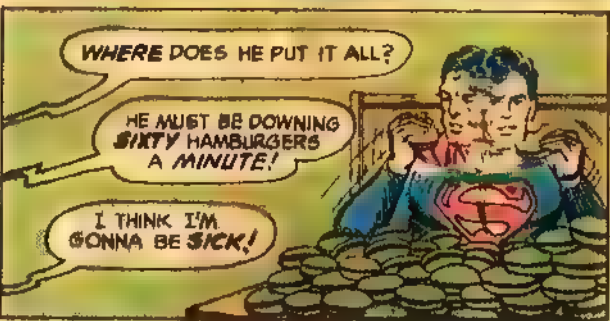
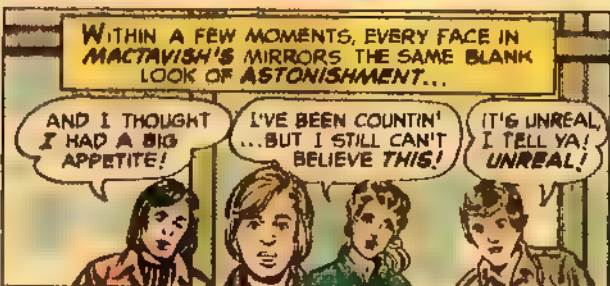
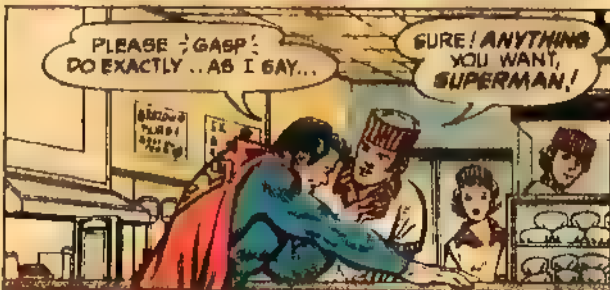
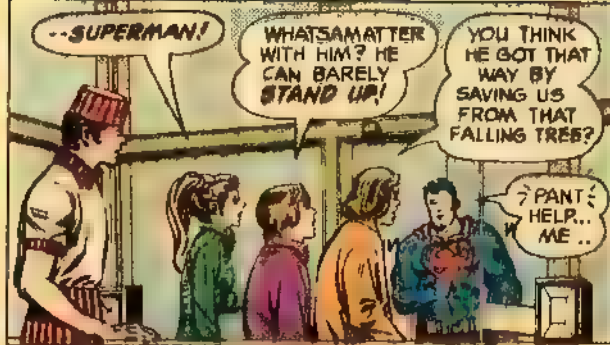
**AUTOMATICALLY, THE MAN OF
MIGHT'S ULTRA-SWIFT REFLEXES
TRANSFORM HIM INTO A
WHIRLING BLUR!...**

WHAT'S
HAPPENIN'
OUT THERE?

GOT TO
PULVERIZE
THIS TREE
BEFORE IT
HURTS
SOMEONE!

I'M NOT
SURE...
BUT I
THINK I
SEE--

OVER
9 BILLION
SOLO



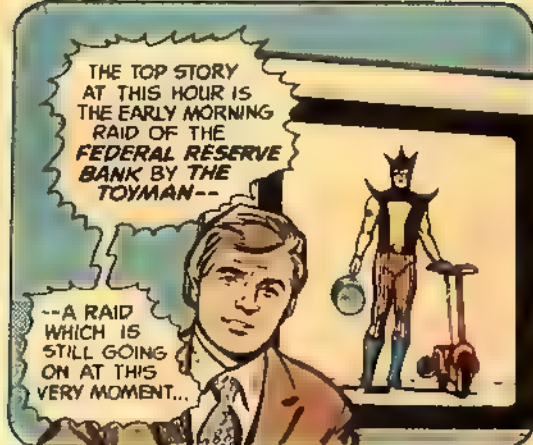
**AND IN THE MORNING--
AFTER MANY DISCREET
FLIGHTS BACK AND FORTH
TO CLARK KENT'S APARTMENT**

IT'LL TAKE MOST OF
CLARK KENT'S SALARY
TO PAY FOR ALL THIS
FOOD--BUT IT'S
WORTH IT!

CONSTANT EATING IS THE
ONLY WAY I CAN KEEP
REPLACING THE MILLIONS
OF CALORIES I BURN UP
USING MY SUPER-POWERS!

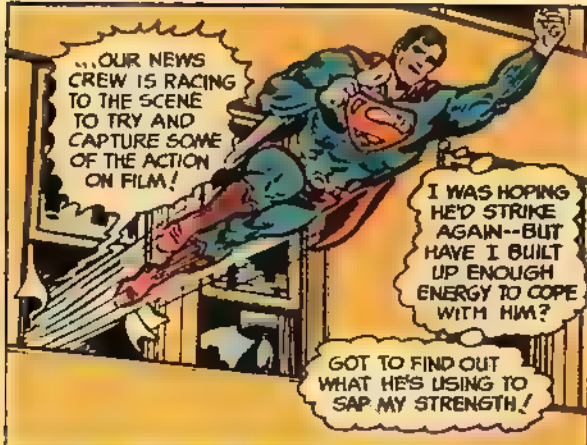
GOOD MORNING...
THIS IS WGBB-TV'S
A.M. METROPOLIS...





THE TOP STORY
AT THIS HOUR IS
THE EARLY MORNING
RAID OF THE
**FEDERAL RESERVE
BANK BY THE
TOYMAN--**

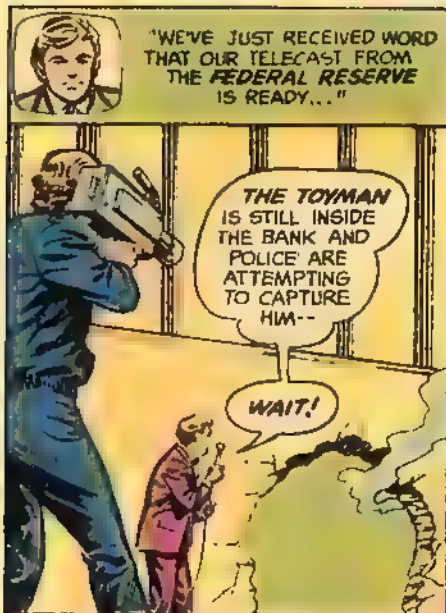
--A RAID
WHICH IS
STILL GOING
ON AT THIS
VERY MOMENT...



...OUR NEWS
CREW IS RACING
TO THE SCENE
TO TRY AND
CAPTURE SOME
OF THE ACTION
ON FILM!

I WAS HOPING
HE'D STRIKE
AGAIN--BUT
HAVE I BUILT
UP ENOUGH
ENERGY TO COPE
WITH HIM?

GOT TO FIND OUT
WHAT HE'S USING TO
SAP MY STRENGTH!



"WE'VE JUST RECEIVED WORD
THAT OUR TELECAST FROM
THE **FEDERAL RESERVE**
IS READY..."

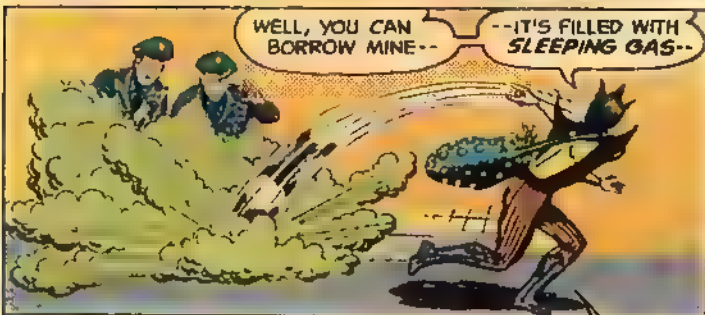
THE TOYMAN
IS STILL INSIDE
THE BANK AND
POLICE ARE
ATTEMPTING
TO CAPTURE
HIM--

WAIT!



THE TOYMAN
IS COMING OUT--
WITH THE POLICE
CLOSE BEHIND!

GUARDS!
REMEMBER WHEN YOU
WERE YOUNG AND COULDN'T
GO TO SLEEP WITHOUT
A TEDDY BEAR...?



WELL, YOU CAN
BORROW MINE--

--IT'S FILLED WITH
SLEEPING GAS--



--PLEASANT
DREAMS!

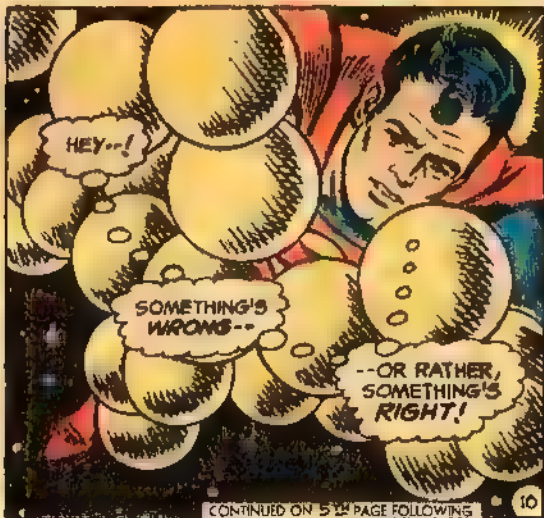
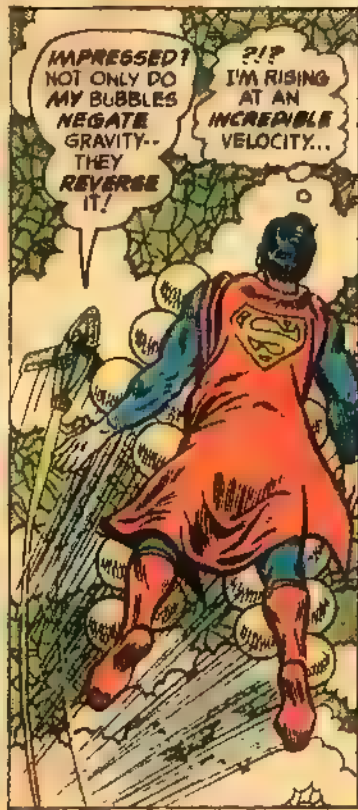
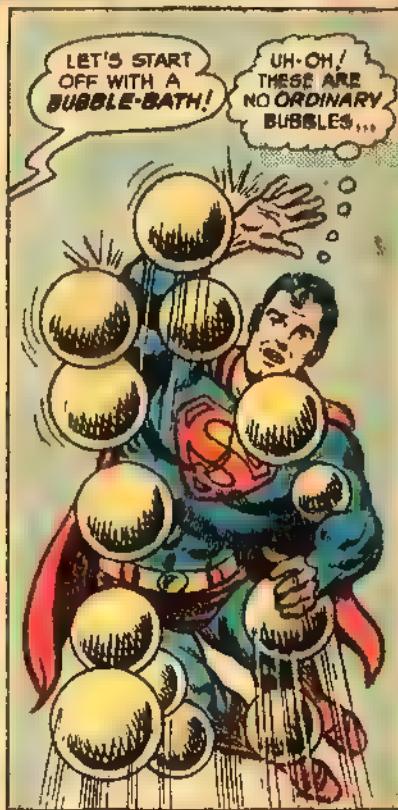
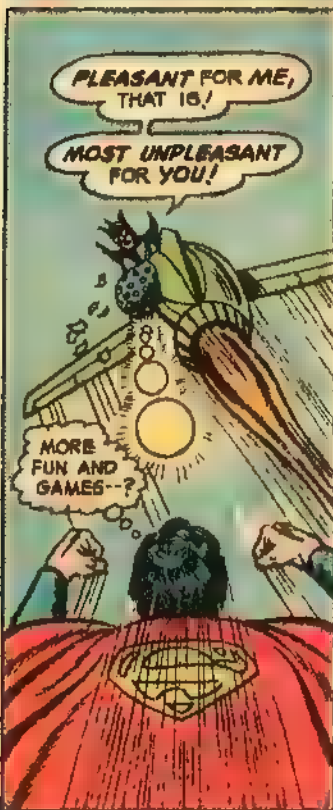


EXPENDED TOO MUCH ENERGY
SUPER-SPEEDING HERE! PANT

I'M ALREADY
BEAT--!

SUPERMAN--!
WHAT A PLEASANT
SURPRISE!

MUST FIND OUT HOW
TOYMAN HAS CRIPPLED
MY STAMINA AND
ENDURANCE!



2 SOCKO SPECIALS

for SEPTEMBER
in DC's NEW
SUPER-SIZE!

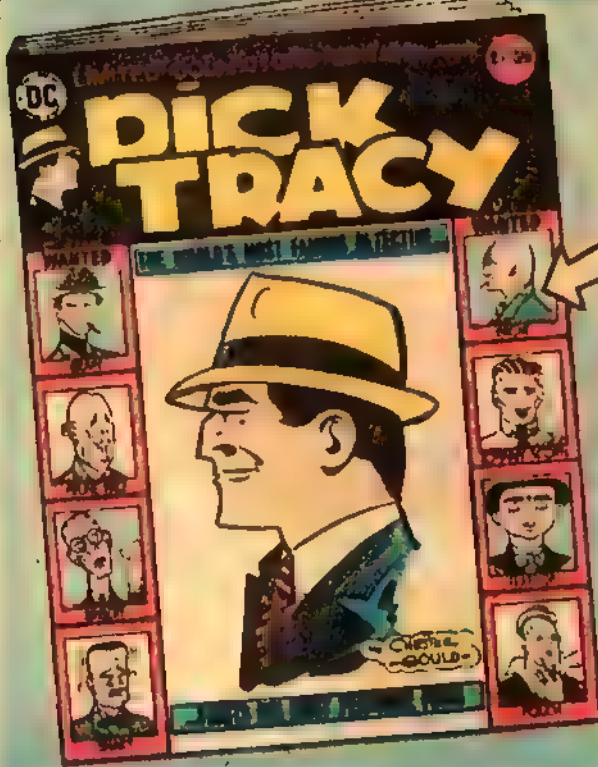
A SENSATIONAL 1ST.
A SPECTACULAR
SUPER-FRIENDS
ISSUE WITH AN EXCLUSIVE
COVER, ART AND FEATURES
BY **ALEX TOTH**--THE
TALENTED ARTIST WHO
DESIGNED THE TOP
TV SHOW!



A
SPECIAL DICK TRACY
ISSUE!

THE WORLD'S NO. 1
DETECTIVE TACKLES HIS
MOST FAMOUS FOE--
FLATTOP!

PLUS... A LINE-UP OF THE
MOST DEADLY
VILLAINS EVER DREAMED UP!
EXTRA... SPECIAL FEATURES
AND FWW-UP!



NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUB., INC. P.O. BOX 118
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SUPER FRIENDS Collectors' Edition	\$1.50 (\$1.65 & 50c for postage and handling)	
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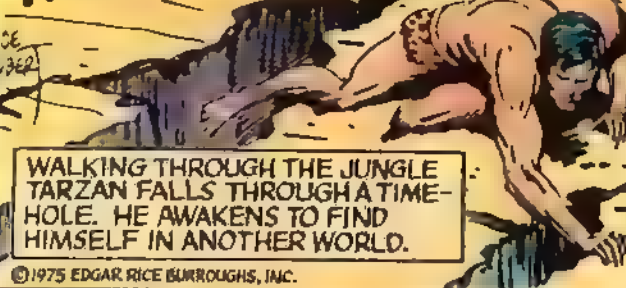
NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS Tarzan

DISCOVERS THE LAND OF THE PREHISTORIC ANIMALS



WALKING THROUGH THE JUNGLE
TARZAN FALLS THROUGH A TIME-
HOLE. HE AWAKENS TO FIND
HIMSELF IN ANOTHER WORLD.

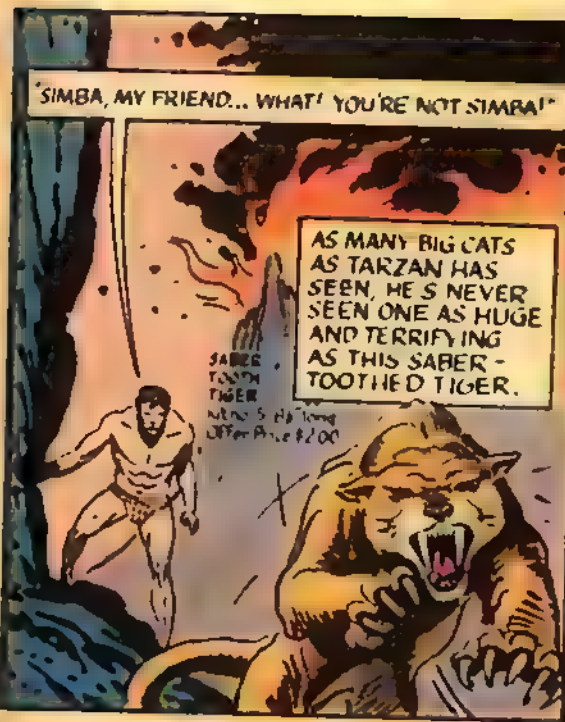
©1975 EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS, INC.



TARZAN HAS
NEVER SEEN
SUCH FRIGHTEN-
ING CREATURES.

FLYING REPTILE
No. 10 10" long
Offer Price \$2.00

SAIL-BACK
REPTILE
No. 10 10" long
Offer Price \$2.50



"SIMBA, MY FRIEND... WHAT! YOU'RE NOT SIMBA!"

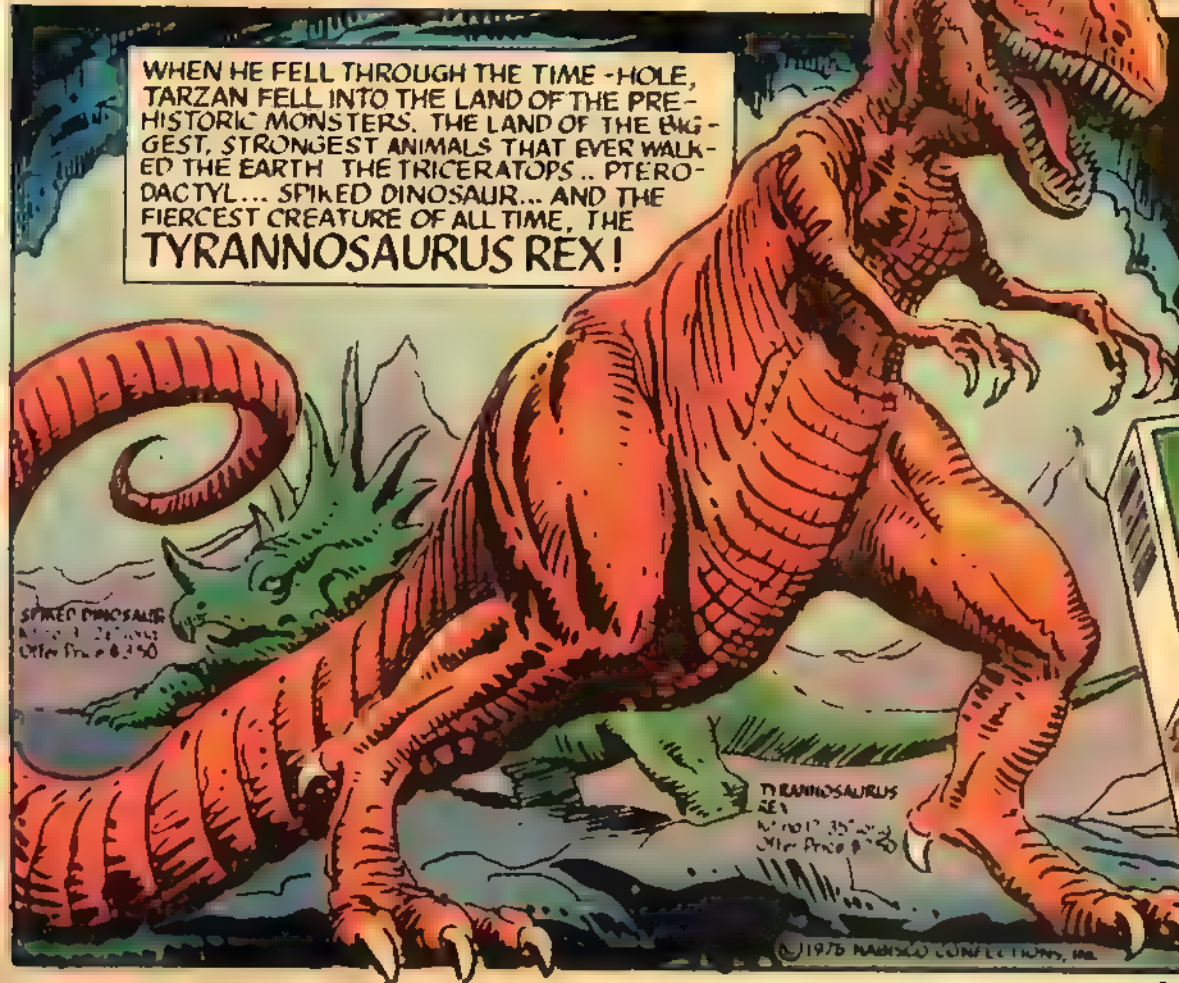
AS MANY BIG CATS
AS TARZAN HAS
SEEN, HE'S NEVER
SEEN ONE AS HUGE
AND TERRIFYING
AS THIS SABER-
TOOTHED TIGER.

SABER-
TOOTH
TIGER
No. 5 14" long
Offer Price \$2.00



ALLOSAUROS
No. 10 14" high
Offer Price \$3.00

WHEN HE FELL THROUGH THE TIME-HOLE,
TARZAN FELL INTO THE LAND OF THE PRE-
HISTORIC MONSTERS. THE LAND OF THE BIG-
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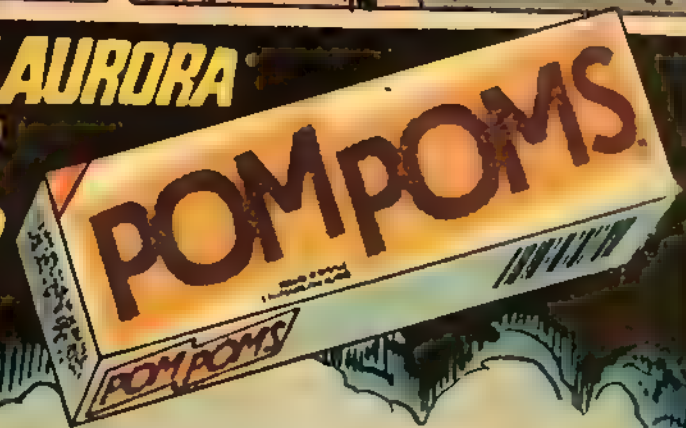


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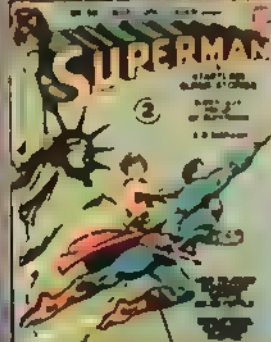
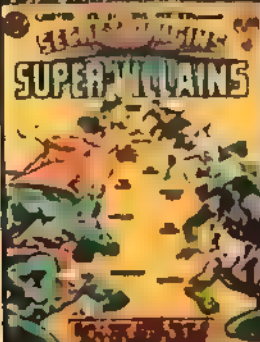
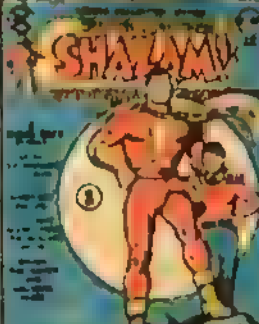
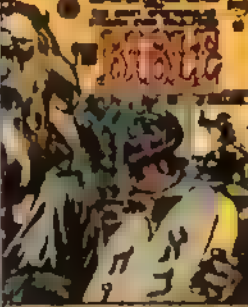
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Appendix

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A FEW PULSEBEATS LATER...

HA! I MUST
BE A BETTER
TOYMAN THAN
I THOUGHT!

THAT'S TWICE
NOW
SUPERMAN'S
COME UP
AGAINST ME--

--AND TWICE I'VE
TOYED HIM OUT
OF MY WAY
WITH HARDLY
ANY--



YIEEE!
WHAT'S HAPPENING
TO ME--?

YOU'VE RUN OUT
OF LUCK, TOYMAN...
AND OUT OF
ACTION!

SUPERMAN?

YOU'RE
SUPPOSED
TO BE
OUT OF
THIS
WORLD
BY
NOW!

I SHOULD'VE
KNOWN MY
GETAWAY WAS
TOO EASY...

...AND I SHOULD'VE
KNOWN A SECOND-RATE
CROOK LIKE TOYMAN
WASN'T SMART ENOUGH
TO CAUSE MY ENERGY-
CRISIS!

I NOW KNOW BETTER!

SOON, IN THE
OFFICES OF
S.T.A.R.
LABORATORIES.

THE LOGIC
OF YOUR
THEORY
CANNOT
BE FAULTED,
SUPERMAN!

SINCE YOU GET
YOUR POWERS
FROM YELLOW
RAYS OF THE SUN--
IT ALSO FIGURES
THE SUN IS THE
SOURCE OF YOUR
SUPER-ENERGY!

ENERGY THAT
I'VE BEEN
ROBBED
OF LATELY--!

YES...NOT TO MENTION
SOLAR ENERGY PLANTS
ALL OVER THE EARTH
THAT HAVE SUFFERED
SIMILAR LOSSES
OF POWER!

YOU'RE RIGHT--
SOMETHING HAS
TO BE DRAINING
SOLAR RAYS--

--BUT WHAT MAKES
YOU SURE THE DRAIN
IS COMING FROM THE
EARTH'S CORE?

TOYMAN ACCIDENTALLY TRIPPED
ME-- AND I BEGAN REGAINING
MY FULL ENERGY ALL AT ONCE!"

"BUT WHEN I ZOOMED EARTH-
WARD TO CAPTURE TOYMAN--
MY ENERGY STARTED FADING AGAIN!"

"THINKING MY INSTANT RECHARGE WAS THE SAME, I BEGAN TOYMAN IN
TAL AND LEAVING HIM IN MY GRASP!"

ODD! EVEN AS
I MOVE FURTHER
FROM THE SUN,
THERE'S NO DRAIN
ON MY ENERGY--
WHICH MEANS...

...THAT THE PROBLEM
WAS IN THE EARTH!
IN THE EARTH!

MY X-RAY VISION
REVEALED THE SOURCE
OF THE TROUBLE

AND THIS SCOUT
YOU HAD ME ILLUSTRATE
WILL HELP YOU
OVERCOME IT!

IT'S STUDIED
WITH HUNDREDS
OF SUPER-
SOLAR CELLS!
WEARING IT
WILL TURN
YOU INTO A
HUMAN SOLAR
BATTERY,
SUPERMAN.

AND A HUMAN
SOLAR BATTERY
IS WHAT
I HAVE TO BE
IN ORDER TO
REACH THE
EARTH'S
CORE!

IN THE END
I WAS
WEAKER LIKE
BEFORE... MY
SUPER-SOLAR
CELLS ARE
MAKING ME
STRONGER

MY
WEAKNESS
IS BEING
THE WEAK
LINK

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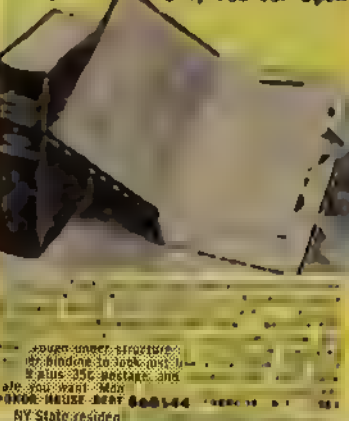
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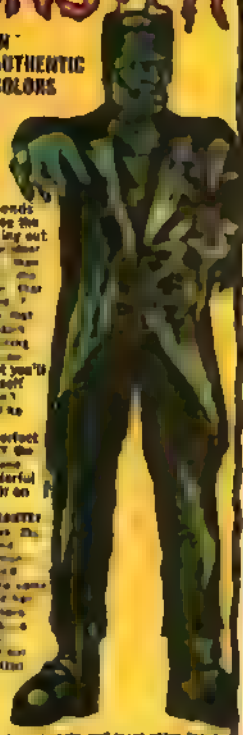
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WAR IN A
LOST LAND
OF
MONSTERS!



THE GODS
AT WAR--
WITH EARTH
THE PRIZE!



ON
SALE
OCT. 16TH



ON
SALE
SEPT. 30TH

FINALLY, MANY MILES
INTO THE PLANET

THERE IS THE
TROUBLEMAKER!

MY X-RAY VISION
REVEALED IT'S A FREAK
HYBRID OF METAL
ALLOYS THAT ACTS
LIKE A SOLAR
MAGNET ABSORBING
THE SUN'S ENERGY
AS IT HITS THE
EARTH!

BUT AS THE ACTION
AGE APPROACHES THE
SLOWING VE... ON OR

GREAT KRYPTON!
THERE'S SO MUCH
YELLOW ENERGY
HERE, MY SOLAR
SUIT'S OVER-
LOADING--

IT'S TOO MUCH
ENERGY EVEN FOR
ME TO HANDLE!

GOT TO TRY
SOMETHING

THIS BETTER
WORK OR I
COULD EXPLODE
LIKE AN
OVER-CHARGED
BATTERY!

A TENSE MOMENT
LATER

WHEN, LIKE
I HOPED--

WRAPPING THE
SOLAR SUIT AROUND
THE GLOWING ALLOY
HAS CANCELLED
OUT THE PROBLEM!

THE SOLAR
MAGNET AND
MY SUPER-
CELLS WILL
FOREVER
FEED ON
EACH OTHER!
I'M MY SUPER-
ENERGIZED
SELF AGAIN!



AND LATER
THAT DAY, AT
LUNCHTIME

GEE, CLARK, I DIDN'T THINK
THIS PLACE WOULD BE SO
MOBBED!

WE'D BETTER HAVE
LUNCH SOMEPLACE ELSE!

JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND
WHY IT'S SO CROWDED...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT
IT, JIMMY. I REALLY
WASN'T IN THE MOOD FOR
A HAMBURGER ANYWAY!

Coming Soon SUPER-STAR

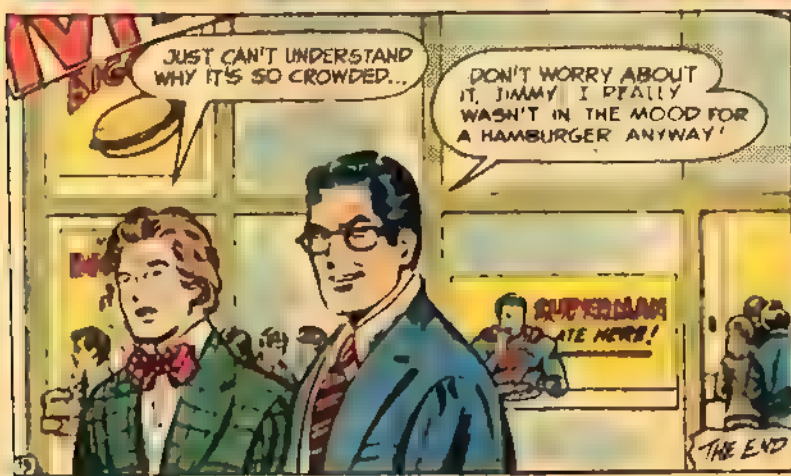
HAS BATTLED
MANY FANTASTIC FOES
IN THE PAST-- BUT NONE
AS WILDLY WEIRD AS...

**JUNKMAN--
THE RECYCLED
SUPERSTAR!**

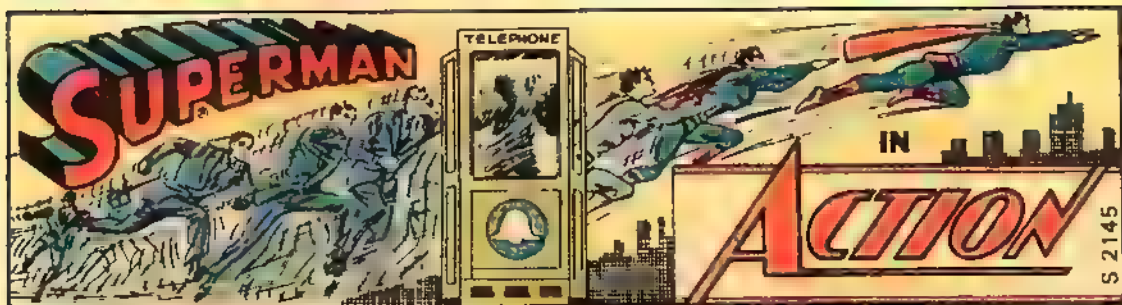
IT'S A MONSTER SO MIGHTY
THE MAN OF STEEL
NEEDS HELP FROM BOTH

**Don't miss next issue's
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ON SALE LAST WEEK
IN OCTOBER



THE END



c/o NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019.

Dear Editor and Woodchucks

I generally dislike the cute DC versions of various celebrated people (Mason Reese, Ernest Hemingway, Henry Kissinger, etc.). But Johnny (Carson) Nevada is pretty much an exception to this rule. For the most part, you avoid the silliness with him and he maintains some dignity. The observation in *Action* #450 that deep down inside, a comedian is seeking attention by doing whatever he can to be funny is hardly original, nor is it as effectively presented as I'd like (in "The Laugh Heard 'Round the World"). Still, it is an interesting insight.

The most intriguing part of *Action* #450 is the new glimpse of the Lois Lane Clark Kent relationship. First I want to say I'm glad you've restored her long hair; she looks better that way. It's intriguing that she and Clark took their vacations together; I didn't know she was interested in him. We really have to be told a lot more about the feelings involved in the Superman-Lois Clark triangle.

We have to take these relationships a lot more seriously. Clark has to be more than the caricatured fraidy cat; we should see qualities that make him a successful reporter/anchorman and that would attract Lois to him. You can hold on to the mild-mannered jokes and make Clark more real at the same time; I think then we true life mild-mannered people could better identify with him.

More importantly, Lois' conflicting emotions about Superman and Clark should be detailed and made understandable. We should see her as a sensitive woman with confused feelings, not as the usual snoopy, schoolgirlish dodo. We should see what makes her, more than anyone else, the best woman for Superman.

Peter Sanderson, Milton, Mass

(You're a mild-mannered person? No one would ever know it from your letters!—E.N.B.)

.....

Dear Nelson.

Action Comics #450 was my 41st consecutive edition of *Action* and as good a place as any to submit my first consecutive letter of comment.

There were good parts in this issue, but unfortunately, they were submerged in the back-up story. "The Laugh Heard 'Round the World" was, as I am learning to anticipate from both Bates and Maggin, a true pinnacle of mediocrity. Nothing too good or too bad, although I did rather enjoy the idea of Lois and Clark taking their vacations together. Do I see mucho storylines creeping up from this prospect?

Mike Grell's art is the best thing to hit DC since Redondo, and what is really amazing is that it gets better every time! **Green Arrow** and **Black Canary** make a much more interesting team than either **GA/Green Lantern** or **GA/Speedy** ever did. Elliot's script ("A Gremlin in the Works") has possibilities. Hope he doesn't let it go down the sink.

A note about the letter column—seems that lately all the printed letters have been either complimentary or vague. Isn't there anybody who has anything slightly nasty to say out there somewhere?

Kevin Krieg, Colorado Springs, Colo.

(You should know—your letter is hardly all lollipops and roses.—E.N.B.)

.....

Dear Sirs:

"The Laugh Heard 'Round the World" was not the best Superman tale in the history of the magazine, but it was far from the worst. The plot was familiar, or so it seemed to me. One of Clark's co-workers has an accident, and as a result, a terrible menace is unleashed on the world. Last time it was Lois, and the time before it was Steve Lombard (or was it the other way around?).

About the **GA/BC** back-up story. It would seem strange that David would know that by offering a vacation to Oliver Green and inviting him to take Dinah Lance along, he could bring **Green Arrow** and **Black Canary** onto the scene. But then again, they did not try to conceal their identities as best they could. Not only was Ollie whittling an arrow, but he called Dinah "Bird-Lady" in the presence of David and his father. Later, **BC** evened the score by calling **GA** "Oliver" when they were obviously within hearing range of the "Gremlin."

There was something strange about David. This I realized right away, though I wasn't sure what it was. The second time through, I saw that whenever his face was seen, David was clearly posing. On the last page, I finally noticed that he looked familiar, on page 2, after long consideration, I decided David was identical to the famous statue of the same name by Michelangelo.

Tom Murphy, Newark, N.J.

(Good spotting—the only lettercol writer so far who's spotted the likeness. As for **GA** and **BC**, they aren't taking any pains to conceal their identities—and this is no goof by Elliot, but deliberate character development!—E. NELSON BRIDWELL)

HOURS AGO, WHEN RAY (ATOM) PALMER ARRIVED AT HIS FIANCEE'S APARTMENT...

DON'T LOOK SO DOWN, SWEETIE! YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU!

S-H LORING

WHAT?! JEAN-- COMING ON TO SOME OTHER GUY?!

JEAN LORING! WHAT'S GOING ON--HUH?

HEY, TAKE IT EASY, RAY! CAN'T YOU SEE I'M JUST TALKING TO MY PLANTS?

SEE IT--? YES--

--BUT, BELIEVE MY GIRL PLAYS KISSY-FACE WITH A BUNCH OF FLOWERS? NO!

WHERE'VE YOU BEEN, SILLY? PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TALKING TO PLANTS FOR YEARS!

THEY THRIVE ON WORDS OF LOVE!

AFTER THAT UNLIKELY BEGINNING, THEIR "DATE" TOOK SOME UNEXPECTED TURNS...

...AS THEY WERE DANGEROUSLY "SIDE-TRACKED" BY A DEVICE CALLED THE ACTUALIZER*!

* AS SEEN LAST ISSUE! ---EDITOR.

The Atom

NOW WE JUMP AHEAD SEVERAL HOURS TO IVY UNIVERSITY--SO-NAMED FOR THE CLINGING VINES THAT DEVOUR ITS BUILDINGS!

HOLD EVERYTHING! DID WE SAY "DEVOUR"?!

INDEED WE DID--BECAUSE THESE RUNAWAY PLANTS ARE ABOUT TO TURN THE VERDANT GROUNDS OF IVY U INTO...

"THE CAMPUS THAT SWALLOWED ITSELF!"

A HORTICULTURAL HORROR GROWN BY
MARTIN PASKO -- writer
JOSE DELBO -- artist
JULIUS SCHWARTZ -- editor

RAY AND JEAN FIRST SAW THE
INVADING IVY FROM RAY'S LAB
IN THE PHYSICS BUILDING...

RAY, LOOK
AT THAT!

WE'VE GOT
TO GET OUT
OF HERE!

THE IVY! IT'S
SPREADING
LIKE CRAZY--
EVEN FINDING THE
ENTRANCE TO
THE
SCIENCE
QUAD!

THE BIOLOGY
BUILDING--THE
IVY'S CRUSHING
IT!

THERE IT GOES...
AS IF IT'S BEEN
SWALLOWED UP!

LUCKY THERE WERE
NO NIGHT CLASSES
IN THERE!

ONLY ONE
THING COULD
HAVE STARTED
THIS...

THE SAME
THING THAT'S
GOING TO STOP
IT: THE
ACTUALIZER!

KAA
RU
MMBBB!

WONDERING WHAT GOOD
THAT WE DO LOOK
AT RAY NOW THAT HE'S
OUT OF JEAN'S SIGHT

SIXTY SECONDS LATER, A
PLAN IS PUT INTO ACTION

THAT'S IT, JEANIE! EVEN
IF IT FIGHTS BACK, HANG
ON TO THAT IVY!

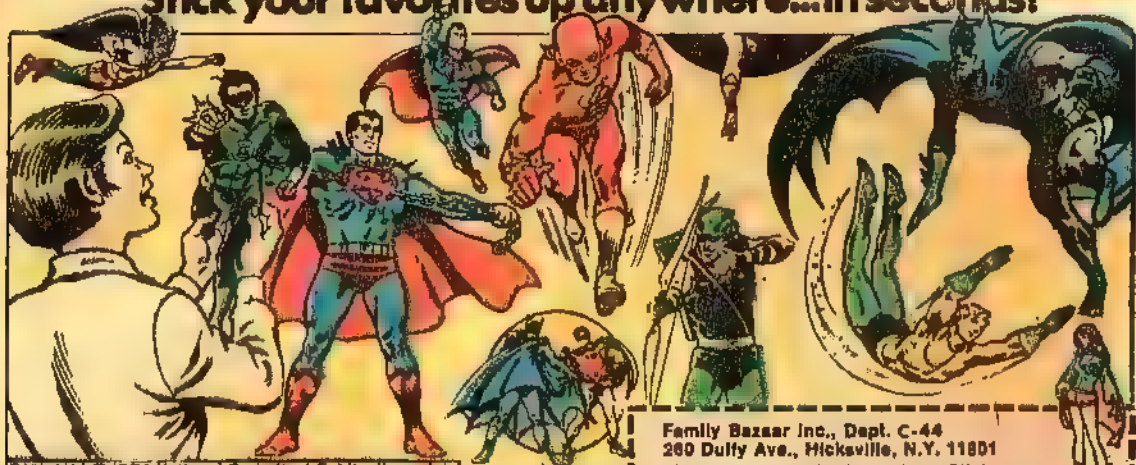
AND KEEP
CONCENTRATING--
TELL YOURSELF HOW
MUCH YOU LOVE
IVY UNIVERSITY!

WHEN I TRAIN
THE ACTUALIZER
BEAM ON JEAN...

...I'M COUNTING
ON THE POSITIVE
"VIBES" SHE'LL
GIVE OFF TO
MAKE THE
MARAUDING
IVY BACK
DOWN!

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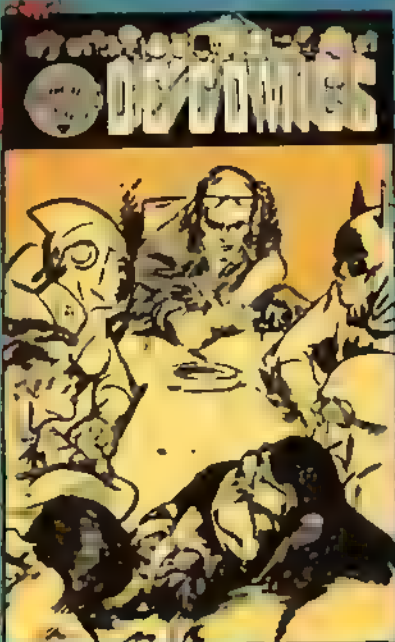
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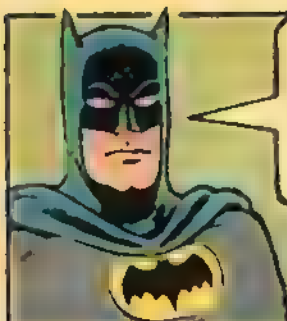
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ALLOW 10 WEEKS FOR FIRST DELIVERY!

YOU'RE
PROBABLY
ALSO
WONDERING
JUST WHAT
STARTED ALL
THIS! SO WE'LL
LET YOU IN ON
SOMETHING
EVEN
THE ATOM
DON'T
KNOW...
YET...

THE "SOMETHING" THAT
OCCURRED SOME TIME
LATER, AN IVY U
GROUNDSKEEPER WENT
ABOUT HIS CHORES

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
IS DELIGHTED WITH YOUR
ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN
FOR THE NEW
THEATER...



OF COURSE, THE
MODERNISTIC
DESIGN WILL
CLASH WITH
THE MORE
CONSERVATIVE,
IVY-COVERED
BUILDINGS!



WAS YOU
THERE--
GROUNDSKEEPER!

HAVE
THE IVY
ON ALL
THE
BUILDINGS
REMOVED--
IMMEDIATELY!



WMPH! BUREAUCATS!
I'D SOONER TEAR DOWN
THE BUILDINGS!

"TEAR DOWN THE BUILDINGS,"
HE THOUGHT--AND THAT'S EX-
ACTLY WHAT THE IVY HE WAS
TOUCHING HAS BEEN DOING
FOR HOURS!

SUCH IS THE
POWER OF THE
ACTUALIZER
TO TRANSLATE
A PERSON'S
UNVOICED
FEELINGS
INTO ACTION--
USING ANY
MATTER
TOUCHED
BY THEM!

BUT WHAT HAS ALL THIS TO DO
WITH THE ATOM'S PLAN?
TUNE IN ON HIS THOUGHTS...

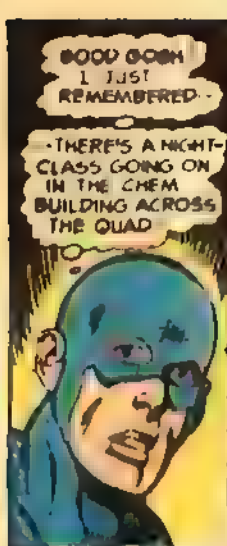
IVY U'S ONLY CHANCE IS
THIS UNPREDICTABLE,
POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS
GIZMO!

I'LL AM IT
TOWARD
JEAN



-AND KEEP MY
TEENSIE-WEENSIE
FINGERS CROSSED!

I LOVE THIS SCHOOL
...OH, BOY, I DIG
IVY UNIVERSITY...
YESSIR, IT'S A
GOOD PLACE,
IVY U...



BOOO BOOO
I JUST
REMEMBERED...

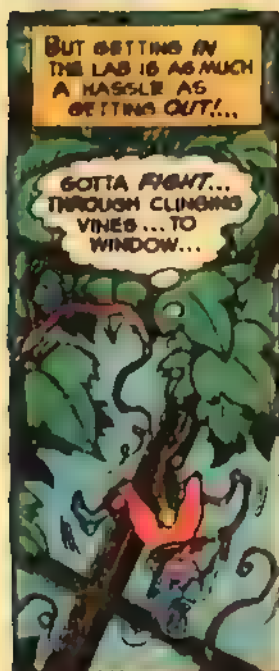
THERE'S A NIGHT-
CLASS GOING ON
IN THE CHEM
BUILDING ACROSS
THE QUAD



LESS THAN A MINUTE LATER

WINDOWS--
SEALED SHUT
BY THE IVY!
BLASTED STUFF'S
IN THE VENTILATOR
DUCTS, TOO!

THEY'RE
PANICKING--
AFRAID OF
ASPHYXIATION
BY THE GAS
FROM THEIR
EXPERIMENT--
TRAMPLING
EACH OTHER
TRYING TO
GET OUT!



BUT GETTING IN
THE LAB IS AS MUCH
A HASSLE AS
GETTING OUT!...

GOTTA FIGHT...
THROUGH CLINGING
VINES... TO
WINDOW...



CRASH!

IT'S A MINI-
CAMPUS RIOT
IN HERE!

AND THE
IVY'S
FOLLOWING
ME IN--



MAYBE I
CAN TURN A
CURSE INTO
A BLESSING

USE THE IVY
TO SQUASH THE
RIOT-- TAKE OUT
THE MORE
RAMBUNCTIOUS KIDS!



ALL OF
YOU--
LISTEN
TO ME!



THIS BUILDING
COULD COLLAPSE
ANY MINUTE!

YOU'LL ALL
GET OUT OF
HERE SAFELY
BY FOLLOWING
MY INSTRUCTIONS!

C'MON, YOU BEAUTIFUL CLINGING VINES ... YOU DON'T REALLY WANT TO DESTROY THIS LOVELY OLD CAMPUS!

WHY DON'TCHA BE A GOOD LITTLE IVY AND COOL IT, HUH, LAMBHEY-KINS!

OKAY, GUYS-- WE'RE GOING TO DO A JACK AND THE BEANSTALK BIT!

THAT'S IT--EASY DOES IT! THE IVY'S BEGINNING TO RETREAT NOW!

LET IT TAKE YOU ALONG WITH IT!

AND--JUST AS IN THE FAMOUS FABLE--THE "JACKS" RIDE THE VINE TO A NEW DESTINATION---

--A SAFER ONE!

HOORAY FOR THE ATOM! THEY'RE SAFE!

NOW TO BEAT A HASTY RETREAT --AND RE-APPEAR AS--RAY PALMER!

LATER, INSIDE THE PHYSICS BUILDING...

I RUSHED HERE AS SOON AS I HEARD--RAY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

DESTROYING THE ACTUALIZER, PROF. SPEER! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS-- IT CAUSED THIS WHOLE DARN MESS...

...EVEN IF IT DID CORRECT IT!

"THAT GIZMO--? COME ON, RAY-- I PULLED THAT 'SAVE' BY TALKING THE IVY DOWN! THE ACTUALIZER WAS DE-ACTIVATED! YOU TOLD ME SO YOURSELF!..."

*YES, RAY DID INDEED KNOCK OUT THE DEVICE--BUT AS THE ATOM!--EDITOR.

GO ON-- ADMIT IT! TALKING TO PLANTS IS NOT AS FREAKY AS YOU THINK!

NO WAY, JEANE-- IT WAS THE ACTUALIZER, I TELL YOU...

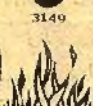
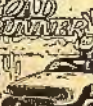
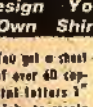
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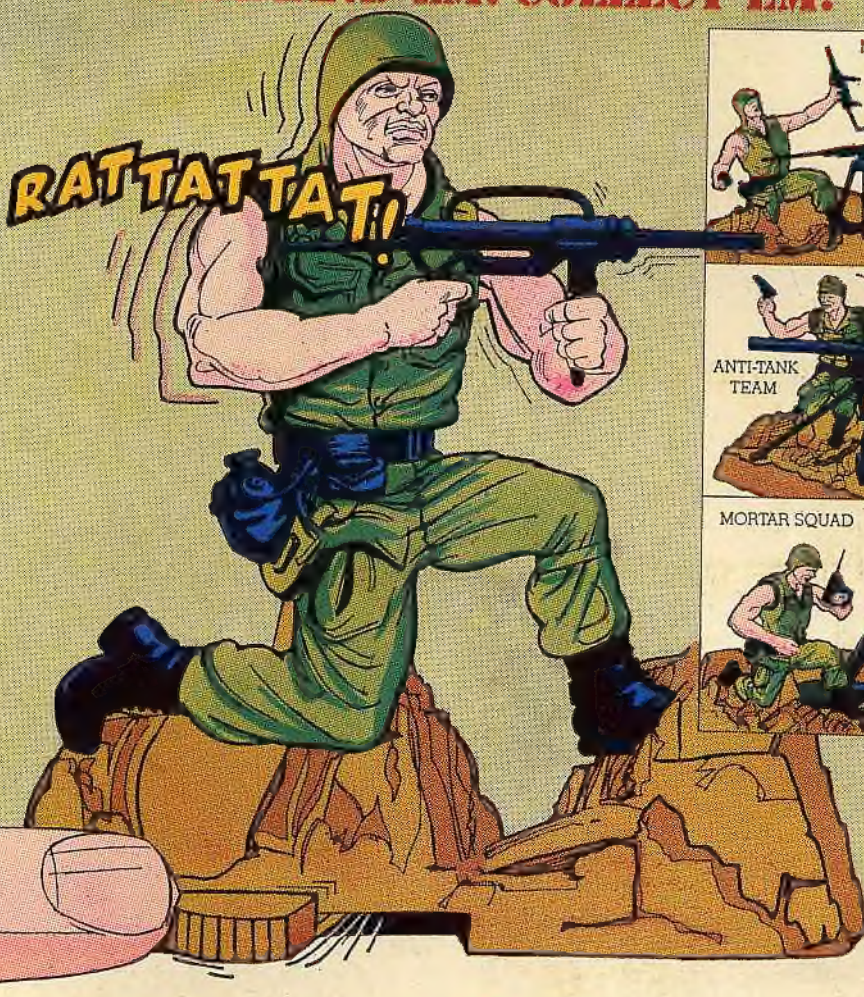
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